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THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

VOL. II.

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THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

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McGill College, March 15th, 1876.

No. 8

ECLECTICISM.

"Pugnantia secum,
Frontibus adversis componere" HOR.

It bodes no good for the progress of speculative science when its votaries, weary and footsore with laborious and slow ascent, endeavour, through sheer indolence, to discover a royal road which will lead to the same goal. Eclecticism is the result of a mental sluggishness which shirks stubborn toil, and fancies that the problems of philosophy are to be treated as Alexander dealt with the Gordian knot. It is an imposing edifice built on a sandy bottom. It may, indeed, contain many a goodly stone, and stout beams in plenty, but these will totter and fall as soon as the treacherous basis is attacked, and will serve as materials for future and wiser architects. Severe habits of thinking are pre-eminently requisite in those who would achieve success in the 'Science of Sciences,' and superficial theorizing perishes in as short a time as it was brought forth.

What then are we presented with by these butterfly philosophers, who flit lightly from one system to another and cull from each the fairest flowers? Eclecticism, they tell us, is an equilibrium between all other systems: it is benevolent to all and discerns the good of each, however veiled and hidden it may be. It is free from the infatuation and partiality by which many systems are disfigured, and compels them all to contribute to its own enrichment. We endeavour, they say, to do injustice to no system, and to bring in harmony all the various rivals, and so put an end to their unceasing and unseemly bickerings. We shall follow Plato, in his lofty flights, but at the same time allow his great disciple to remind us when we are in a world of mere ideas. We shall adopt the fundamental principles of Descartes, correct his occasional vagaries by the critical philosophy, and temper the whole with the sound common sense of the Scottish School. We shall accept a positive Religion, but with just

a dash of free-thinking to bring it up to the wants and ideas of the present century.

These are fine words indeed, but unfortunately they are mere words. We are left without a word of explanation on the cardinal point; for these philosophers have omitted to tell us what is to guide us in making our choice. What reasons can they give for approving this and rejecting that system? Why should we accept the opinions of this or that empirical subject, and with what right do they constitute themselves judges on this all-important question? They forget that it is precisely for this that they need a philosophy, a First Philosophy, to connect all the sparse fragments which jostle one another in their mongrel assemblage. Eclecticism, as has been observed, is a collocation and not a conciliation; it reminds one of the monstrous picture described by Horace. Alexandre Vinet justly remarks: "Eclecticism is true only as an instinct; as a system it is vain, since it does not present to our view the central thought around which all the scattered elements of human philosophy must group themselves and live in common."

Every sound and universal system of philosophy is eclectic; it must of necessity, if it would be complete, give the *raison d'être* of all those that have preceded it, and at the same time enrich itself from the stores of wealth which these several systems have accumulated; but it must not rely for guidance on a mere subjective instinct which cannot give the *rationale* of its choice. Of course the individual subject is often right, but then again he is quite as often wrong, and cannot arrogate to himself the right of legislating for the others. Probably the world has never seen a more remarkable example of Eclecticism than Hegel's History of Philosophy, where every thinker of any worth, however antagonistic his views may be, is made to pay his tribute and help to rear the mighty structure, often, as it were, against his

will. But here there *is* a central thought, a *Bindgewebe*, which makes the choice dependent, not on the whim and caprice of this or that subject, but on the very nature and constitution of *all* intelligence. And the result of this is that Hegel's philosophy is not a *medley* but a *system*, not a capricious juxtaposition of dissimilar ingredients, but the fusion and conciliation of all previous philosophies.

SWEETS OF AUTHORSHIP.

There are few experiences of College life to which one looks back, with such an odd mixture of painful, pleasant, and ludicrous emotions, as that which a Freshman feels when first requested to contribute an article to a College paper. The beginning is pleasant enough, "*Facilis descensus Averno*" though even the beginning itself assumes a very dubious character, in a few minutes. He meets an editor, and after exchanging a few words with him, is suddenly accosted with—"By the way M—you write a little, don't you?" This question, is the one invariably used when the editor is not sure of his ground. It has already proved, and I suppose will continue to prove, a rock of offence to many an innocent Freshman. The only way to escape its baleful effects, is to take French leave as soon as one hears it: to answer it is to rush upon one's fate. If you reply to it in the affirmative, the editorial retort will be "Don't you think you can give us something for next number?" If you answer it in the negative, you will be informed that it is "*high time you began*." In either case, and in the midst of the confusion engendered by the unexpected turn affairs have taken, you will half unconsciously promise to give "*something for next number*." And as the spider when its victim is fairly immeshed, allows it to wear itself out in ineffectual struggles that it may fall the easier prey at last, so does the imperturbable editor. He politely wishes his victim good morning, and leaves him—to struggle. The unfortunate is still somewhat surprised, but by no means despondent. He reflects upon his case, while wending his way to his room, and probably decides to go to work at once, and

finish his "*something for next number*" at a sitting. Oh infatuation! The first difficulty presents itself almost immediately in the choice of a subject. What can be the matter? Have his wits gone wool-gathering of a sudden, or has he always been the stupid wretch, he feels himself to be now? He racks his brain for ideas, but apparently the few that were there, finding it hard to be sociable in so spacious a tenement, have sought other quarters, and he finds it empty swept and garnished. In despair he seizes a book and begins to read. It so happens that the book is a copy of Charles Lamb's Essays. After a little reading he feels refreshed, and decides to let Lamb choose a subject for him. He accordingly begins to write on "*Roast Pig*." But it would be hard to find a person who could regard with favour any production of his own, after reading Lamb. As might be expected then, this effort comes to nought.

It would be tedious to relate all the struggles of our young author in prospect—to tell how he envies in general all who ever wrote a book, or contributed to a magazine; but in particular every individual whose productions have taken the form of short essays, and the like; how he finally retires for the night, and dreams that he has been charged with murdering his friend the editor, and that unless he can write his own defence before morning, and deliver it to the judge, he will be hanged; and yet can think of nothing to write in his own behalf, but "*It is high time you began*" which he feels is quite true, and "*Don't you think you can give us something for next number*," until he awakes in an agony of apprehension and dread.

The next day he takes occasion to speak to the editor, and intimates that he finds himself so busy, &c., &c., that he really cannot have his article ready as soon as he expected. "Oh but you know you promised! and we are relying on you for a page." "But what am I to write about?" "Oh anything, just a page of anything." Feeling rather hurt at this happy way of ignoring the subject of the article, and laying all the stress upon its length, our friend, goes his way, with a sort of a blind determina-

tion to fill a page with the alphabet, and get through with the task he now almost despairs of finishing. However, to-day genius burns, he finds a subject a little more interesting than the alphabet, writes his article, and after giving it to the editor, composes himself to wait as patiently as he may for the appearance of "our next number." Now, for the first time he tastes the joys of authorship. He quite plumes himself on what he has done. But pride goes before a fall. When the paper appears he eagerly scans its columns to descry the well remembered title. It is not to be found: there must be some mistake. He turns to the Editor's room, and is just about to knock, when his eye falls upon a waste-paper basket, waiting to be relieved of its burden of trash, and on looking at it more narrowly, the first object that attracts his attention, is his own article, torn and dog-eared, a melancholy wreck of its pristine self. His feelings on turning away may be very well given in the words—

Farewell a long farewell to all my greatness !
 This is the state of man : to-day he puts forth
 The tender leaves of hopes ; to-morrow blossoms,
 And bears his blushing honours thick upon him :
 The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,
 And—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely,
 His greatness is a ripening—nips his root,
 And then he falls, as I do.

SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.

IV. SCIENCE IN THE DARK AGES.

As we have seen that among the ancient nations there were very few students of nature, and that these few were widely scattered geographically and lived only at long intervals of time, it would be impossible to expect rapid progress. Scientific truths are only demonstrated by careful and close observations of facts and before they could be correlated many men, must have lived and died feeling that life was too short to acquire knowledge. There is but little of a poetical or idealistic nature in Science, and it is not strange that the more learned

were given to poetry and the Fine Arts rather than to the investigation of dry facts, the laws of which were then unknown. In the gross and superstitious darkness that veiled the Middle Ages, when learning had sunk so low, it would be quite unreasonable to expect any scientific progress, and but little has been handed down to us. This period may then be considered as one of transition between ancient and modern knowledge.

In the midst of their wars the ancient Orientals had lost a taste for scientific studies which then passed over to the Southern Europeans; but from the dying embers of Greek and Roman knowledge, the Arabs, Persians and Jews, rekindled their zeal for studious observation. Unlike the Occidentals, they had not the positive spirit of observation, and they frequently substituted their imaginations for this; and thus, errors in Astrology and Chemistry, which commenced before the fall of the Empire, were enthusiastically developed among them, and stopped the progress of sound investigation.

In the seventh century, among the *Savants* of these Eastern nations there were Almedben-Ibrahim, Iln-Sirim, Iln-el-Mocaffa, Dchaffer, Ahron (author of the Pandects of Medicine) John (the grammarian and translator of Galen), El-Kinâni (a medical professor in Alexandria), and Dchàbir (or Geber). These men were students of Medicine, Botany and Alchemy, and in the last of these sciences or *quasi-sciences* it is to Geber, that we owe the first reform. He is credited with the discovery of Sulphuric Acid, which led to a long series of chemical truths being made known. He also discovered, that in the calculation of metals there is an increase in weight in the oxide formed, this being due to the absorption of oxygen from the air. Geber, conducted his investigations with remarkable exactness, but unfortunately he gave himself up to the chimeira of transmutations of metals; and his writings on the subject are so clear and precise that the reader might almost believe in the effect. Geber, was also an able astronomer. But the most important event of this century was the foundation of Islamism by Mahomet, by force of arms rather than by the power of speech.

This nearly extinguished scientific research, and during the eighth and ninth centuries there were very few *Savants* who were not Christian. From among the learned of the ninth century (many of whose names are unpronounceable) arose the family of Bachticlione, who were the glory of Persia. Many of these translated the principal Greek and Roman scientific works, being protected by Calif Al Mamaên (A. D. 815) and succeeding Califs, who welcomed to their courts the learned men from abroad. But this state of progress could not continue and there resulted a struggle between science and religion. As the priests of the Roman church at a later day made their heavy hands to be felt in Europe, attempting to enforce the dogma *that all knowledge came through them*, so the teachers of the Koran, fearing, endeavoured to prevent the diffusion of the taste for scientific observations. No true religion need fear science, but its truths sometimes come by means of false teachers, uncomfortably near home; and no religious dogma can stand unless resting on a foundation of facts. In most religions the devotees have incorporated much that is poetic and idealistic, which in course of time becomes venerated, and sometimes teaches what the plain matter-of-fact science shows to be untrue. Of course the narrow minded teachers of these religions, which are always conservative, do not like their pet-theories upset, or even to have rivals, in fields of knowledge which may share the homage paid to their despotism. Thus in every age the seekers of natural truth have been persecuted, alike by Pagan and Christian churches, even to our own day; but erroneous scientific theories can only hope to be broken down by the revelations of scientific observations, unrestricted by the dictates of mistaken orthodoxy.

The Koran does not make many references to scientific facts, it says nothing however to interfere with investigations.

Referring to the former condition of the globe it says that "the earth was created in two days, and the mountains placed on it; in two more days the inhabitants were placed there, and again in two more, the seven heavens were created." The Deluge is mentioned

as the waters proceeding from an oven. After all were drowned except Noah and his family, God said "O earth, swallow up thy waters, and thou, O heavens, withhold thy rain" and the waters abated. The Mahometan persecutions were, at times during the succeeding centuries, sanguinary, men being often decapitated and flogged to death.

Among the learned of the eighth and ninth centuries was a considerable number of Indians and Jews. The Arabs did not stop with acquiring the knowledge of their predecessors but advanced in new discoveries. In the ninth century, Sabeens of Harran, whose field of research was in the anatomy of birds, flourished, as also did El Batin, the Astronomer. The observation was at Bagdad, and this *savant* determined the Aphelion, and calculated the inclination of the ecliptic, composed astronomical tables, and made many observations on the skies and planets.

The commencement of scientific study among the Mahometans dates back to early in the tenth century, and they pursued every branch of human knowledge. Few of their works have been preserved, yet fragments have been handed down. Omar (*The Learned*) wrote a treatise on "the Retreat of the Sea." In this work he considered that the waters had covered a much greater portion of Asia than they did in his time, confirming his theory by the prevalence of salt marshes in central Asia, and by the Indian charts of 2000 years before. Representing the time occupied by the retreat of the sea greater than consistent with the Koran, he was called upon to recant his opinions. Another of the most learned of this period was El Ragi (Rhazes,) the Galen of the Epoch, who left more than 200 works. However the greater number of Mahometan *savants* belonged to Spain, where great attention was paid to agriculture and the products of different climates and soils.

Abessia, the younger, of Bokhara was the most celebrated physician of the age, and his reputation spread widely over Asia.

(to be continued.)

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

Wednesday, March 15th, 1876.

Amongst the first symptoms of the appearance of an aristocracy in any community, is that desire which would-be members of this aristocracy possess, to have their children and wards educated and brought up entirely apart from the rougher and less refined offspring of the *commune vulgus*. This wish for separation, we do not mean to question. Arguments might be adduced to show that such feelings are not conducive to the best interests of any country, and equally strong reasons might be urged to prove that the feeling is perfectly justifiable.

However we imagine no amount of argument would bring with it conviction, and so we shall not discuss this point. But a natural, nay we might almost say a necessary, consequence of this wish for isolation is the existence among us of so called 'private educational establishments,' 'select academies for young ladies or gentlemen,' as the case may be.

These flourish in abundance, and the more private, the more select, and the more expensive, the greater the number of parents and guardians who desire to place their charges in the blissful abodes where their young minds will be uncontaminated by association with less favoured (pecuniarily speaking) juveniles.

These academies and private schools are generally undertaken by parties who, whatever qualities they may possess to properly educate and train children, nearly always have the object in view of making the most money in the shortest possible time. So "Mrs. Jones, (widow of the late Mr. Jones) having engaged the services of the most eminent masters, will open a first class school for the board and education of young ladies. Terms \$500 per annum, payable in advance. A limited number of day scholars taken at moderate rates" So reads the advertisement. Often too, references, always 'by permission' are given to B. Fitzfaddle Snooks Esq, and O. R. Brown Esq, (of the firm of Brown & Robinson) and others, all of whom have probably been patrons or acquaintances of the late Mr. Jones, and are

on this account deemed perfectly capable to guarantee to confiding mammas and credulous papas, that Mrs. Jones and her eminent masters are in every way competent to give a full and complete education to any young ladies who may be given to Mrs. Jones, 'and her eminent masters' charge.' Under these auspices the school is started, Mrs. J. announces that 'she has a *few* vacancies,' and these are immediately filled up.

But now comes the more serious consideration. Should schools like the one above mentioned, free from all restrictions and liable to no inspection by competent officials be allowed to exist. Should a scheming woman be permitted, or should a speculative man be permitted, to engage what teachers he or she pleases; to engage teachers whose qualifications for the immensely important work they are to perform, have never been tested? We answer, No. But it may be argued that if the teachers are incapable it is the parent's affair entirely. To a certain extent it is, but still all parents cannot distinguish a good school from a bad one, and many would, even could they draw the line, prefer to send their charges to a fashionable academy, no matter what the character of the instruction there imparted.

What we think necessary is, to have all desirous of teaching, compelled to undergo an examination, or else render the inspection of private schools by public officials compulsory.

By this means many of those pernicious systems of instruction now in vogue would be done away with, and the result would be that the young of every class would all receive a *thorough* education on approved principles instead of the present anomalous and baneful system.

As most of the Students probably know, the "memorial" requesting the Faculty of Arts to cede to the students the room in the right wing immediately adjoining the Arts' Buildings, for the purpose of a reading-room, is now complete. A meeting of Students in Arts and Science was called last Thursday, to receive the report of the Committee who had been appointed to draw up this memorial, and also

to receive the signatures of all Students favourably disposed towards this movement.

We fear that many who would otherwise readily have signed the document, were deterred from doing so by the inconvenience of attending the meeting at the time for which it was appointed. For it is impossible to fix any hour at which all the students can without trouble, hold a meeting. It is much to be desired that every student who is not directly opposed to the reading-room, (and we are persuaded that there is a minimum of this class) should exert his influence actively in its favour, by appending his signature to the memorial petitioning for it, in order that there may be a fair expression of the want which is so generally experienced.

FOOTBALL.

In a few weeks all vestiges of winter will have disappeared, and the ground will be in a fit state for football.

The ensuing season promises at present, to be a very interesting one, and though our session closes too early to permit of any very extensive operations, still it is not improbable that one or two matches may be arranged.

A challenge was received by the college club from Harvard but it was found impossible to get a team in readiness for the Spring, for such a match.

A challenge from the same source has, we understand, been sent to the Canadian Football Association, and we hear from the Secretary that it will be accepted. If this is the case a good match may be expected, as the team will be selected from all Canada, and, as every one knows, the Ontario Clubs can produce some splendid players.

If the Association do not accept the challenge, it is likely that the Montreal Club will go to Harvard and endeavour to retrieve their lost laurels.

It is a matter for great regret that owing to differences in the rules played, there is little probability of our ever being able to have an Inter-University Match with Toronto, or Queen's (Kingston).

However we trust that these difficulties may be soon smoothed over.

At a meeting of the College Foot-ball Club, held lately, it was decided to petition the Governors to allow none of the City Athletic clubs, which have formerly been in the habit of using the College Grounds during the summer months, to do so during the ensuing season.

We hope that the Governors may see fit to grant this request, for no one who used the ground during the past autumn could have failed to observe that the turf was in a very bad state, and that altogether a season for recuperation was necessary.

Were the grounds unused for one summer, and a little care and attention bestowed on them by the porter, whose duties during vacation are very light, the result would be most beneficial. Again we think that, as our worthy Principal remarked in his address at last convocation, the city has always shown too great a disposition to rely on the University for the provision of play grounds for the city youth.

The time has now come when, instead of allowing City clubs to spoil the ground during the summer, thus rendering them unfit for the exercises of the students in the autumn, the authorities should permit no outsiders to use that property which was intended for the use of students alone.

OBITUARY.

MR. S. G. HUTCHISON.

We sincerely regret to have to announce the death on the 1st inst. of Mr. Samuel G. Hutchison, 3rd year in Law. Mr. Hutchison, was much respected and deeply beloved by all who knew him, as well for his uncommon abilities as for his urbane and gentlemanly disposition. Mr. Hutchison had been prominently connected with the press of the Dominion, and from every section of the country we hear expressions of regret at his untimely demise. His fellow students in Law adopted an appropriate set of obituary resolutions, and attended (in a body) his funeral which was largely attended by the citizens of Montreal. We tender to his family our heartfelt sympathy, believing that in so doing we echo the sentiments of all students who knew the late gentleman.

We copy the following from the *Standard*, in reference to the death of one of McGill's most celebrated graduates :

DEATH OF SIR DUNCAN GIBB, BART., M. D.

The death is announced of Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., aged 55. The deceased was educated for the medical profession, first at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and afterwards at Montreal, in Canada. He graduated M. D. at McGill College, Montreal, in 1846. He was also a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and was for some time physician to the Westminster Hospital and to the West London Hospital. He was a member of many societies in Europe and America, and the author of several works on diseases of the throat and windpipe.

Nothing has, so far as we know, been done as to making arrangements for the Annual Dinner to the graduating class in Arts.

We hope the Arts men will not allow this pleasant kind of reunion to die out, and trust we shall soon be able to announce that all arrangements have been perfected.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editors *McGill Gazette*.

DEAR SIRS,

Allow me if you please, through the medium of your columns, to notify your readers that the McGill University Glee Club has adjourned till September next, in order that the work of the students in view of the approaching examinations may not be interfered with.

Perhaps I had better take this opportunity to thank such of your readers and friends as patronised our concert, for the kind feeling they showed, and the generous way in which they helped us. But I wish the students *as a body* had shown more interest in our effort, and that there had been more students in the audience. In this desire for greater support from the students I fancy you, sirs, can sympathise. However, considering that we had only one week for selling tickets, and also the miserable

weather we had that night; I think we were very fortunate in being able to give between eighty and ninety dollars to the Hospital. I hope, and believe, that the audience was not disappointed, for I heard many kind congratulations given to our President, Conductor, and various members, on the way in which the club acquitted itself.

A wish was expressed that the club would repeat the concert; but that could not be done this session.

I should like now to add a few words on our past deeds and our future hopes. For the past, we are grateful to our President for his untiring zeal and kindness, and to our Conductor for his energy and ability. The club numbers twenty members, three or four of whom have not been able to attend practice, and we have had sixteen meetings with an average attendance of fourteen.

Next Session we hope largely to increase our numbers, and by starting at once, with a club already formed, we hope to give two concerts in the year.

Allow me to urge all students, vocalists or instrumentalists, to join this Society. While part-singing is our principal object, still we do not confine ourselves to that. We probably shall have for the future, some nights specially set apart for instrumental music, so that those who join merely as instrumentalists, need only attend on such nights. Moreover our scheme might comprise vocal solos, duetts, &c., *occasionally*, thus giving an interesting variety.

We might thus form a Society which, taking *Excelsior* as its motto, might maintain a series of very enjoyable concerts, worthy of our Alma Mater. In conclusion, I would urge the students to give this their attention, and I am sure, Messrs. Editors, that you will open your columns to the discussion of this subject.

Thanking you for the space you have given me,

I beg to remain
Sincerely yours,

J. A. NEWNHAM,
Sec.-Treas. *McG. U. G.*

PERSONALS.

'65 Alfred Codd, M. D. is Surgeon to the Forces stationed at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

'63 Geo. Wood, M. D. is practising with much success at Faribault Minnesota.

'74 W. A. Molson, M. D. is at present in London, England.

'70 W. de C. Harnett, B.C.L. has been appointed Assistant Attorney for the City of Montreal.

'68 Rev. Robt. Laing, B.A. is Assistant Clergyman in St. Paul's Church, Montreal.

Stewart, Bac. App. Sc. '73, Boswell '74, and Batcheller '75 are engaged on the City Survey.

'66 R. S. Cassells B.A. is Registrar and Master in Chancery of the Supreme Court of Canada.

D. Girouard, B.C.L. '60 and C. P. Davidson, M. A. B.C.L. '63 have been appointed Queen's Counsel.

'71, W. J. Dey, B. A., was lately inducted Presbyterian Clergyman at Spruceville.

ITEMS.

A Freshman asked us the other day, whether it was Cicero or Tully that wrote the *Oratio Obliqua*.

This is the way Professor Tyndall is reported to have proposed to the daughter of Lord Hamilton: "Saccharine conglomeration of protoplasm! Adorable combination of matter and force! Rarest product of infinite ages of Evolution! The luminiferous ether is not more responsive to the rays of light than are my nerve centres to the mystic influence which emanates from the photosphere of thy countenance. As the heliocentric system was evolved from primordial chaos by the workings of inexorable law, so is that rarification of matter which men call my soul, lifted from profound despair by the luminance issuing from thy visual organs. Deign, O admirable creature, to respect that attraction which draws me towards thee with a force inversely proportional to the squares of the distance. Grant that we shall be made double suns describing concentric orbits, which shall touch each other at all points of their peripheries."

Your own,

Intelligencer.

TYNDALL.

Law and Medical Examinations commenced on the 15th inst.

There is a good deal of excitement in Toronto University over some proposed changes in the curriculum.

We hear that the Literary and Scientific Society of Toronto University, intend issuing a Monthly Journal shortly.

Subscriptions are being solicited among the various Scottish Societies in the Dominion, to aid in establishing a Celtic Chair in the University of Edinburgh.

No meeting of the University Literary Society on the 3rd inst. out of respect to Mr. S. G. Hutchison.

Messrs. Pedley and Hethrington, are the Valedictorians in Arts and Science respectively.

A conceited parson once said, "this morning I preached to a congregation of asses." "I thought of that," replied a lady, "when you called them your beloved brethren" *Ex.*

Slightly Ambiguous.—In a country churchyard there is the following epitaph: "Here lie the bodies of James Robinson and Ruth his wife," and underneath this text: "Their warfare is accomplished" *Ex.*

Oxford—"I say, where's Harvard?"

Cambridge—"O—ah—somewhere in the States, I believe."

Oxford—"Where's Yale?"

Cambridge—"There you have me old boy—don't know—why?"

Oxford—"They want us to row at a place called Centennial next summer."

Cambridge—"O indeed! Ha ha!"—

Harvard Lampoon.

EXCHANGES.

The *Harvard Advocate* for March 3rd, is quite up to the mark. The "Confessions of S. Thetics" and "Ready made Opinions: Metaphysics vs. Science" will richly repay perusal.

Tuft's Collegian is, on the whole, one of our respectable exchanges, though of late the editorials discuss uncommonly trite subjects. A peculiarly offensive feature is the sprinkling of Americanisms which it contains. We should recommend our confrere to be chary of these, especially in noticing transatlantic exchanges. The Oxonians and Cantabs will probably stare when they learn that their Journal is *some* larger than the *Saturday Review*.

Cornell Era. The last number of the *Era* belongs to that unsatisfactory class of literary productions of which it is difficult to say any thing positively. It is not *bad*, while there are few passages which can be called *good*.

The range of the *Dartmouth* for the 2nd of March, is unusually extensive. Imagine a paper that in rather less than four pages discusses, John Stuart Mill and his school, the Pyramids, and Rats; and then try to form some conception of the character of the articles. It is evident that the editors have returned to their duties refreshed by their vacation. Those, however, who have not just received such a sudden accession of mental activity, will feel fatigued in endeavouring to follow the *Dartmouth* in its daring flight. This is our experience. After toiling through the article on Mill, (which, we may observe, closes with one of the safest and most non-committal platitudes imaginable) we have still to climb to the top of the great Pyramid, and are suddenly recalled from our exalted position, by the single word "Rats" which bursts upon us like an exclamation. The tenor of this latter article is in keeping with its title, and the ear is continually saluted with such choice expressions as "may we be dashed," "We just clawed out of the window" &c., &c.

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